



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.B (NCR-LPD)

4 March 2016

Lucy Kempf
Director, Urban Design & Plan Review
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, N.W.
North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20004

RE: Banneker Park Pedestrian Access Improvements

Dear Ms. Kempf:

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and in collaboration with the District of Columbia and Hoffman-Madison Waterfront, requests review of the proposed Banneker Park Pedestrian Access Improvements project for revised concept at NCPC's April 7, 2016 meeting.

The proposed improvements will provide a pedestrian connection between Tenth Street and the Southwest Waterfront. The project includes the construction of a temporary stairway on the west side of Banneker Park that will connect Tenth Street to Maine Avenue near the Fish Market. It also includes the construction of two accessible pathways on the east side of the park to provide an accessible route for pedestrians and bicyclists. The concept design has been revised to be responsive to the comments that the Commission of Fine Arts made when they reviewed the project on November 21, 2013.

Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (202) 619-7038.

Sincerely

Doug Jacobs
Deputy Associate Regional Director
Lands, Planning and Design

Benjamin Banneker Park Pedestrian Access Improvements - Project Summary

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and in collaboration with the District of Columbia (the District) and Hoffman-Madison Waterfront, are proposing to construct a temporary connection at Benjamin Banneker Park (Banneker Park) to provide universal accessibility between the National Mall and the southwest waterfront in Washington, DC. The NPS and NCPC preferred alternative includes the construction of a temporary stairway on the west side of Banneker Park that would connect Tenth Street, SW, to Maine Avenue, SW, near the Fish Market. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant paths would be constructed on the east side of the park to provide access for pedestrians, including persons with disabilities, and also for bicyclists, to the Maine Avenue, SW, intersection near the Fish Market, and the Maine Avenue and Ninth Street, SW, intersection. New sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks would be installed to provide ADA-accessibility to the stairway and paths from Tenth Street, SW. Along Maine Avenue, SW, the existing sidewalk, within the project's scope, would be widened to provide adequate pedestrian circulation, and to accommodate landscaping, street furniture, lights, and signage. To accommodate these features, a concrete retaining wall would be constructed along the southern hillslope of Banneker Park. The retaining wall would replace a portion of the existing riprap embankment and vegetation. Additional aspects of the design of the proposed connection at Banneker Park include landscaping, lighting features, wayfinding signage, and stormwater management.

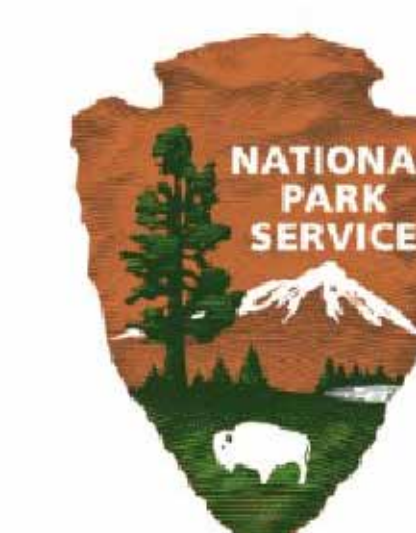
Improved pedestrian and bicycle access between the National Mall and the waterfront has been envisioned since the development of the National Mall Plan in 2010. This plan, prepared by NPS, recognized that improved connections are needed for pedestrian and bicyclists between the National Mall, surrounding city and transportation networks, and the waterfront (NPS 2010). More recently, in 2013, the NCPC accepted the SW Ecodistrict Plan in an effort to create a sustainable and more livable urban environment within southwest DC. The SW Ecodistrict Plan includes improvements to Tenth Street, SW, and a temporary connection at Banneker Park (NCPC 2013). The inclusion of a temporary connection at Banneker Park in the 4SW Ecodistrict Plan, and the vision of improved pedestrian and bicycle access as described in the National Mall Plan, affirms the need for a connection between the waterfront, Tenth Street, SW, and the National Mall at this location.



BANNEKER PARK - 10TH ST CONNECTION

Concept Plan- Layout

March 2016



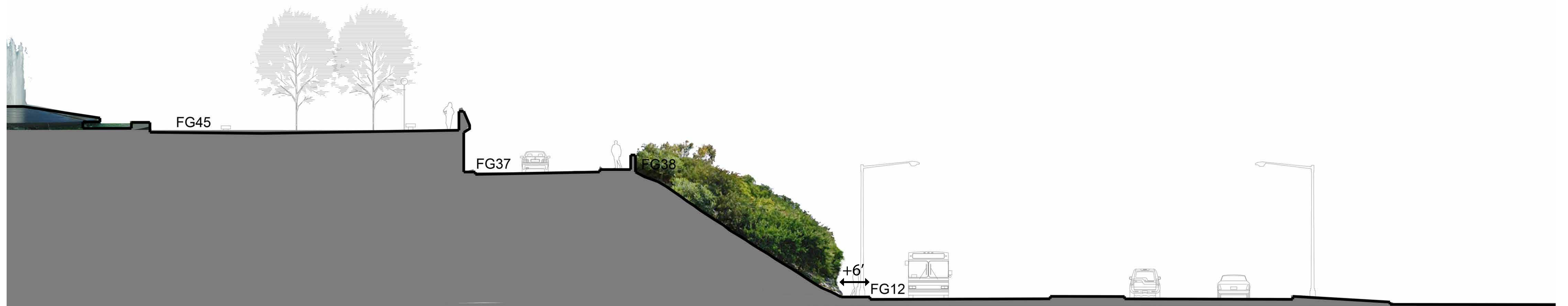


BANNER PARK - 10TH ST CONNECTION

Concept Plan - Stormwater and Landscape

March 2016





Existing (FG = Finish Grade)



Proposed (FG = Finish Grade)

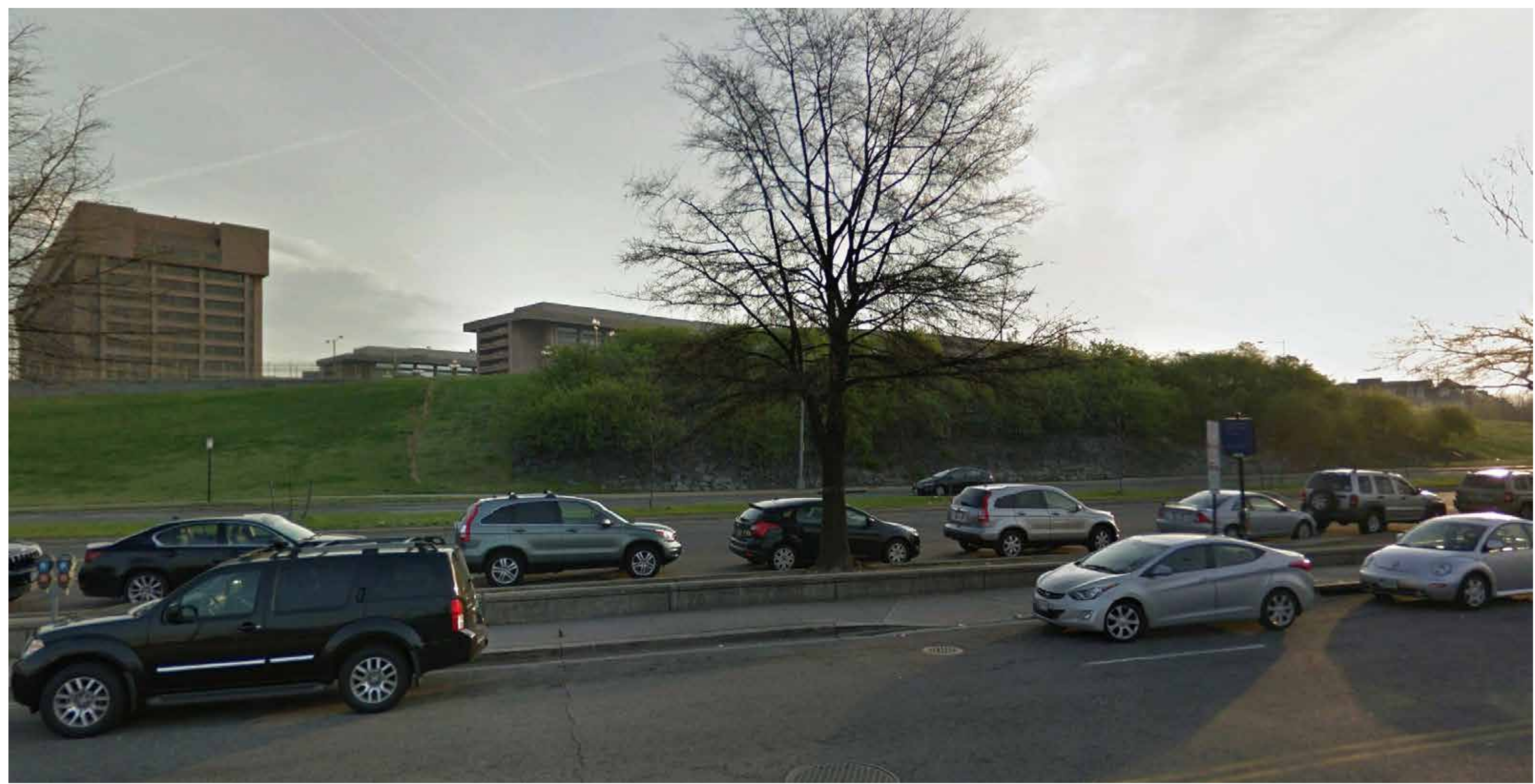
← varies →

Maine Ave SW

BANNEKER PARK -10TH ST CONNECTION

Concept Plan - Site Section

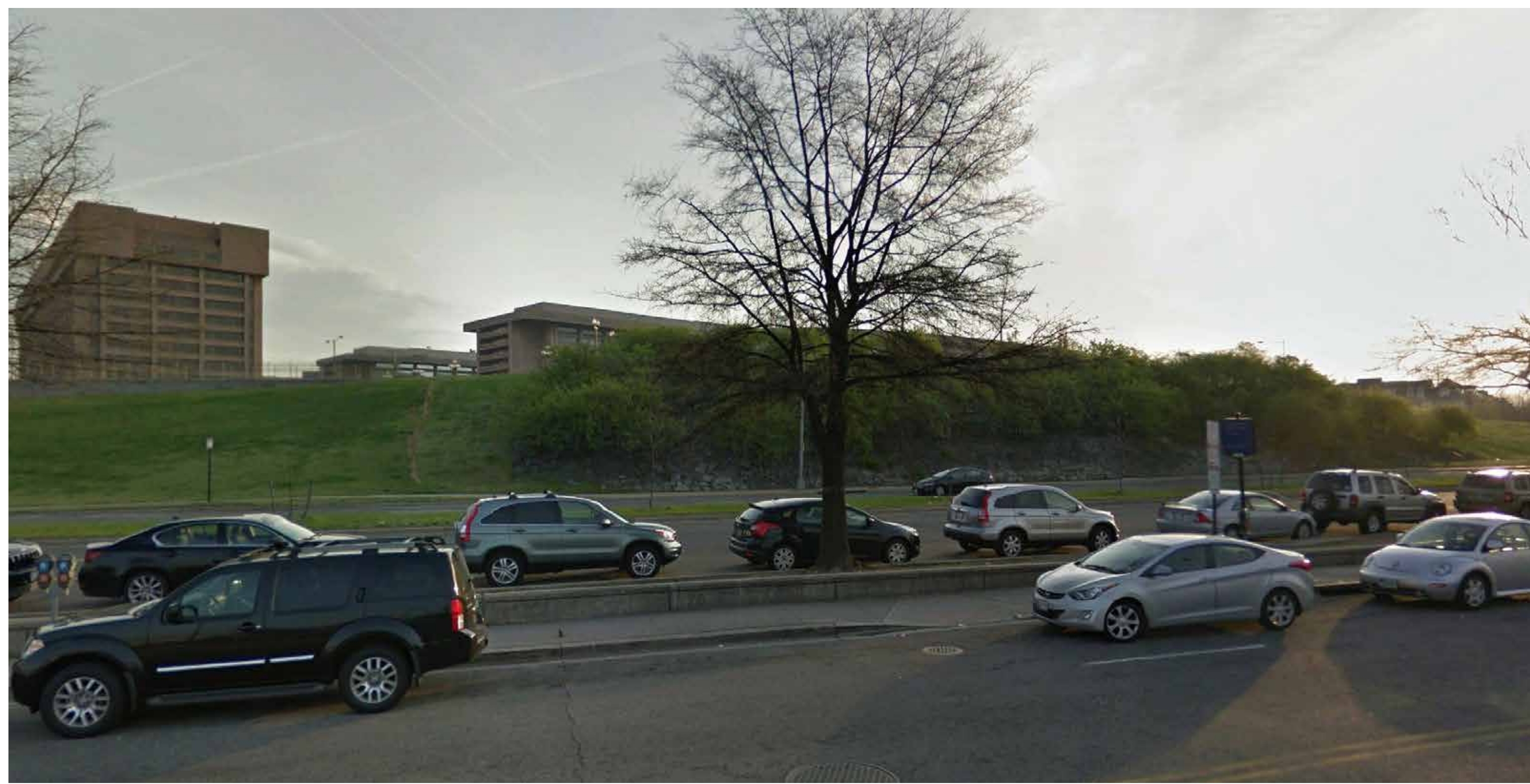
March 2016



Existing



Proposed



Existing



Proposed - Evening View



Existing



Proposed